

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 29, 2001

SENATE BILL

No. 447

Introduced by Senator Vasconcellos

February 21, 2001

An act to ~~add Section 1797.8 to the Health and Safety Code~~, relating to emergency medical services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 447, as amended, Vasconcellos. ~~Emergency Medical Services Systems Coordinating Council~~ *Emergency care and trauma care services: evaluation.*

Existing law, the Emergency Medical Services System and the Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel Act, declares legislative intent to provide for a statewide system for emergency medical services by establishing the Emergency Medical Services Authority, which is responsible for coordinating and integrating all state activities concerning emergency medical services. Under existing law, other entities, such as the Commission on Emergency Medical Services have specified duties with respect to the state emergency medical services system.

~~This bill would create the Emergency Medical Services System Coordinating Council, and would specify the membership of the council. The bill would provide that the purpose of the council shall be to advise the Governor and the Legislature regarding the status of the emergency medical services system in California, and to design and implement related activities. The bill would make related findings and declarations.~~

This bill would require the authority to conduct an evaluation to assess the effectiveness of existing emergency care and trauma care

services in improving and providing support to California's emergency medical and trauma system. The bill would set forth the subjects to be considered in the evaluation, and would require the authority to report its findings to the chairs of specified legislative committees on or before April 1, 2004.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 ~~SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares that~~
- 2 ~~California's emergency medical services system is the premier~~
- 3 ~~indicator of the public's health and safety, and requires immediate~~
- 4 ~~and critical attention. Local governments and individual hospitals~~
- 5 ~~are incapable of ensuring the provision of quality trauma and~~
- 6 ~~emergency medical care without the marshalling of state resources~~
- 7 ~~to assist in realizing needed solutions.~~
- 8 ~~SEC. 2. Section 1797.8 is added to the Health and Safety~~
- 9 ~~Code, to read:~~
- 10 ~~1797.8. (a) The Emergency Medical Services System~~
- 11 ~~Coordinating Council is hereby created in state government. The~~
- 12 ~~purpose of the council shall be to advise the Governor and the~~
- 13 ~~Legislature regarding the status of the emergency medical services~~
- 14 ~~system in California, and to design and implement activities to~~
- 15 ~~further the purposes of this division.~~
- 16 ~~(b) The council shall be comprised of at least all of the~~
- 17 ~~following members:~~
- 18 ~~(1) The Director of Health Services.~~
- 19 ~~(2) The Director of the Department of Managed Care.~~
- 20 ~~(3) The Director of the Emergency Medical Services~~
- 21 ~~Authority.~~
- 22 ~~(4) The Director of the Office of Emergency Services.~~
- 23 ~~(5) The Executive Director of the California Medical~~
- 24 ~~Assistance Commission.~~
- 25 ~~(6) The Director of Statewide Health Planning and~~
- 26 ~~Development.~~
- 27 ~~(c) In addition to the members specified in subdivision (b), the~~
- 28 ~~Governor, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the Senate Committee~~
- 29 ~~on Rules shall each appoint one public member to the council to~~
- 30 ~~represent the public's interests.~~



1 *SECTION 1. (a) The Emergency Medical Services Authority*
2 *shall conduct an evaluation of existing emergency care and trauma*
3 *care services, to assess their effectiveness in improving and*
4 *providing support to California's emergency medical and trauma*
5 *system. In conducting the evaluation, the authority shall consider*
6 *all of the following:*

7 *(1) Access to emergency room care and services.*

8 *(2) Average waiting times for emergency services.*

9 *(3) Access to oncall physicians.*

10 *(4) The frequency with which emergency departments practice*
11 *diversion.*

12 *(5) The number of emergency department closures.*

13 *(6) Geographic access to emergency services.*

14 *(7) The financial stability of emergency medical and trauma*
15 *service providers.*

16 *(b) The authority shall report its findings pursuant to*
17 *subdivision (a) to the Chairs of the appropriate Senate and*
18 *Assembly policy, fiscal, and budget committees of the Legislature*
19 *on or before April 1, 2004.*

